



08/818289

#43 | Pre Patent
PATENT J. H.
FICE 6-309

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Edward W. Stark
Continuation of Serial No.: 08/385,073
Filed: Concurrently herewith
Title: METHOD AND APPARA
TRANSMITTANCE MEA

Examiner: R. Rosenberger
Group Art Unit: 2505
Docket: 653.001US1

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX FWC
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 54 and 55, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

56. A method for improving optical interactance measurements of a material comprising the steps of:

(a) passing illumination along a plurality of different paths through an interior portion of a material having a characteristic to be measured;

(b) said different paths of illumination each comprising a distribution of substantially equidistant illumination means surrounding a central detection aperture;

(c) said central detection aperture comprising optical connections within said central detection aperture which are connected to a detection system;

(d) sensing in said detection system a plurality of independent signals developed at the same time or in rapid sequence representing optical information obtained from within said material in response to said illumination passing along said different paths, each independent